(b) if so, whether Government have since considered the question of violation of the Indian Telegraph Act by the operation of Dish Antenna and Cable TVs for enjoying foreign TV transmissions; and

(c) if so, what precise steps are contemplated by Government in this regard to bring the law in conformity with the requirements of the people and the universal right to information ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The issues regarding Cable T. V. Dish Antenna are currently under the active consideration of the Government.

Complaints against Postal delays

1217. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of complaints received by Government with regard to tardy delivery of mail during the last three years; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to improve the system ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The Department registered the following number of complaints about delay in delivery of mails.

Year	No. of complaints about delay in delivery
1989-90 . . .	69945
1990-91 . . .	77264
1991-92 . . .	77281

(b) Department has introduced periodical review of complaints to identify the reasons and to introduce appropriate corrective measures such as :

(i) Revision of transmission system

(ii) quality control measures

(iii) Constant coordination with Transport Agencies

(iv) Deployment of staff to needy offices

(v) Close inter-action with the Members of public through Post Forum, Dak Adalat and Open House Sessions

(vi) Punitive action against the staff found responsible

(vii) Constant monitoring both at the field and Headquarters levels.

Cost of operation of mobile cellur telephone

1218. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has called for fresh International tenders for providing mobile cellular telephone services in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) if so, what is the likely rate for cellular phone calls as compared to conventional stationery phone calls in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras; and

(c) what is likely amount of foreign exchange out flow in operation thereof indicating as to the number of tenders finalised so far, both old as well as new and names of parties to whom contracts have been awarded for this purpose by the DOT ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) No, Sir. No International tenders have been called. Tenders are called earlier from Indian Companies in collaboration with foreign Companies with a view to licence the Cellular Mobile Operation in the four Metro Cities of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras.

(b) and (c) 8 parties were provisionally selected but since two of the unsuccessful biddars have gone to the Court, the matter is subjudice. However, as per the tender condition, foreign partners have to meet the entire foreign exchange requirement

for the project. Proposed Call Charges are as follows :—

(i) Local calls within the Cellular Area :

Within the Cellular Service area, only airtime charges at the rate of 10 second per unit call will be charged (Normal rate).

(ii) Originating calls from Cellular to fixed network. For calls originated by the mobile subscriber, airtime charges at 10 second per unit call plus call charges as applicable for the fixed work for Local/STD/ISD calls.

(iii) Terminating calls to the Cellular Network.

For calls terminating at the mobile subscriber, airtime charges at 10 second per unit call will be levied.

In addition to the normal airtime charges mentioned above there are 2 additional rates one for peak time and the other for Holidays. The peak time rates are as below :

The call charges for airtime during peak hours shall not exceed double the rates prescribed as above (5 seconds).

The peak time will be restricted to maximum of 4 hours per day. The peak hours will be fixed by the licensee in consultation with Telecom Authority.

All charges for airtime during Sundays and National Holidys shall be half of the rates prescribed, i.e. 20 seconds per unit call plus charges as applicable as above.

Annual growth rate of earning per employee

1219. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the annual growth rate of earnings per employee in top 10 developing countries and in India.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : A statement is placed below :

Annual percentage growth rate of earning per employee in top 10 developing countries in India

Country	Period	
	1970—80	1980—89
India . .	0.4	3.0
Bangladesh .	—3.0	0.9
China . .	N.A.	4.2
Kenya . .	—3.4	0.1
Pakistan . .	3.4	6.1
Sri Lanka .	N.A.	2.1
Thailand .	1.0	6.5
Malaysia .	2.0	3.2
Mexico . .	1.2	—3.9
Brazil . .	3.6	2.6
Repl. of Korea	10.0	6.3

N.A.: Not available.

Estimate of gold held in private reserves

1220. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently estimated the stock of gold held in private reserves in the country at present;

(b) if so, what is the quantum and value thereof;

(c) whether Government have drawn any plan to utilise this gold reserve for some productive use; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

सिगरेटों पर उत्पाद शुल्क

1221. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सिगरेटों पर वसूल किए जा रहे उत्पाद शुल्क का प्रति-